



The Old Ironsides Report

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Warpigs clean up the 'Pigpen' in Baghdad

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BAGHDAD, Iraq – Soldiers at checkpoints and on patrols in Baghdad apprehend suspected thieves and looters on a daily basis, and sometimes even murderers, but what happens to the suspects after the U.S. Army nabs them?

Soldiers from A Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, have taken on the responsibility of guarding prisoners who have been detained by soldiers in the Baghdad area.

The A Company "Warpigs" hold these prisoners or detainees in a facility they call the "Pigpen." It is a jail that was used by the former regime and is currently being renovated and updated.

The engineers are working on the facilities in order to provide a humane environment where they can detain and interrogate prisoners, until the detainees are transported to a prisoner holding area, such as one at Baghdad International Airport, or released.

"Our prison started out as a roll of concertina wire and three or five prisoners," said Sgt. Justin Parrish, a combat engineer and acting warden of the Pigpen. "We will eventually be able to hold about 500 prisoners, and this will no longer be a holding area, but a full prison."

The detainees are currently held at the facility for a week and interrogated by a military intelligence team, said Parrish. If they have been charged with a serious crime, they are sent to the airport for further questioning, and then trial by Iraqi authorities.

However, the Pigpen holds all kinds of lawbreakers. Even parking and curfew violators are held for 24 hours before being released, said Parrish. But each detainee is treated with the same kind of fairness and presumption of innocence one would expect in the United States.

"We hear all kinds of horror stories about the previous regime's treatment of prisoners," said Parrish. "Some people were given no food, no water, no air circulation; but we try to make things as comfortable and humane as possible for these people."



Capt. Eric R. Swenson, commander of A Company, 70th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, visually examines the progress during renovations at the "Pigpen," the U.S. Army's criminal holding facility in Baghdad. The facilities are being updated and partially rebuilt in order to provide a more humane standard of living for detainees.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

The major underlying reasons for errors related to accidents and injuries are:

- ***Lack of self-discipline***
- ***Failure to enforce standards***
- ***Inadequate training***

NEWS

Suicide Bombers Strike Twice in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP) - Twin suicide bombings killed at least 13 people and wounded at least 45 in Israel on Tuesday - striking a bus stop crowded with Israeli soldiers in a Tel Aviv suburb and then a cafe in a Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem. The attacks underscored the collapse of U.S.-backed peace efforts. There have been about 100 suicide bombings against Israelis over the last three years, but rarely have two attacks been carried out on the same day. Both bombers also died in Tuesday's blasts, which happened about 5 1/2 hours apart.

Ueberroth Quits California Recall Race

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) - Peter Ueberroth dropped out of the California recall race Tuesday, leaving just two prominent Republicans seeking to replace Gov. Gray Davis. The latest poll showed Ueberroth trailing badly among candidates in the Oct. 7 recall election. Exactly what Ueberroth's decision means to the remaining candidates remains unclear.

\$85M Deal in Boston Church Abuse Suits

BOSTON (AP) - The Boston Archdiocese agreed Tuesday to pay \$85 million to settle more than 500 lawsuits from people who claim Roman Catholic priests abused them, a lead attorney in the cases told The Associated Press. It's the largest known payout by a U.S. diocese to settle molestation charges. The deal, finalized after months of negotiations, marks a major step toward quieting the crisis that has torn at the fabric of America's fourth-largest archdiocese for nearly two years and spread throughout the country and beyond.

Judge Allows 9/11 Suits Against Airlines

NEW YORK (AP) - The crashing of a hijacked jetliner was the kind of "foreseeable risk" that the airline industry should have guarded against, a judge ruled Tuesday as he permitted lawsuits related to the Sept. 11 attacks to proceed. U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein said negligent security screening could have contributed to the deaths of 3,000 people in the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the crash of a hijacked plane in Pennsylvania.

Oddly Enough...

Washington Subway System Tells NFL to Pay

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Washington area subway system wants the NFL to pay for extra service for last week's season-opening celebration on the National Mall. The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority asked the NFL to send a certified check for \$57,000. "The check must reach the Authority no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 19, 2003," read the letter signed by Metro Assistant General Manager for Communications Leona Agouridis. Metro said it provided "carefully developed" service levels based on the NFL's projection that 200,000 people would turn out last Thursday to see Aerosmith, Britney Spears, Mary J. Blige, Aretha Franklin and Good Charlotte. The early evening concert coincided with both the rush hour and football fans going to FedEx Field in suburban Landover, Md., for the Redskins' season opener against the New York Jets. Metro initially estimated its cost at \$63,462 when it planned to run four extra hours of peak level subway service, but scaled that back to just one hour because of lower than expected demand. It did keep the subway running an extra two hours, from midnight - 2 a.m., to accommodate Redskins fans getting home from the game. An NFL spokesman last week scoffed at the request, saying league officials did not believe the extra service was necessary. The cash-strapped transit agency needs every dollar it can get. Metro already increased fares about 9 percent in June, and faces a projected \$1.3 billion budget shortfall over the next six years. Metro spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein suggested that NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue bring a check when he attends a Sept. 17 dinner at the National Building Museum, just across the street from Metro headquarters. Farbstein said she would "be happy to pick it up." "It can't get more convenient than that," she said.

Chaplain's thought for the day: ***Communicating Integrity***

One side of Harry Elders' business card had a photo of his smiling face. On the other side was his motto: "Integrity Can Be Communicated." For half a century, Harry worked as a narrator and actor in radio and TV. One of his favorite ongoing projects was Unshackled, a Chicago-based radio show. But whether he was narrating a film about foreign missions or a promotional video for a bank, his integrity permeated everything he did. There was no conflict between his walk and his talk. When you hired Harry, you got all of him--virtue, kindness, and principle. After Harry died, a local newspaper had a column of tribute titled: "A voice of integrity is silenced, but its messages will live on." People like Harry remind us of what David wrote in Psalm 26. It begins and ends with integrity: "I have walked in my integrity" (v.1), and "I will walk in my integrity" (v.11). In between these statements he wrote, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my mind and my heart" (v.2). David's desire was to be pure before the Lord so that he could worship and tell of all His wondrous works (vv.6-7).

Integrity can be communicated--when we are true to the Lord everywhere, all the time.

On This Day in History ***September 10th 1940***

On this day in 1940, in light of the destruction and terror inflicted on Londoners by a succession of German bombing raids, called "the Blitz," the British War Cabinet instructs British bombers over Germany to drop their bombs "anywhere" if unable to reach their targets. The prior two nights of bombing had wrought extraordinary damage, especially in the London slum area, the East End. King George VI even visited the devastated area to reassure the inhabitants that their fellow countrymen were with them in heart and mind. Each night since the seventh, sirens had sounded to announce the approach of incoming German planes, which had begun dropping bombs indiscriminately in the London vicinity, even though the docks had been their primary target on Day One of the Blitz. As British bombers set out for Germany to retaliate, they were instructed not to return home with their bombs if they failed to locate their original targets. Instead, they were to release their loads where and when they could. On the night of the 10th, a night when British Home Intelligence had been alerted of how panicked Londoners were becoming at the sound of those air-raid sirens, Berlin was paid in kind, with a cascade of British bombs—one of which even landed in the garden of Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi Party's minister of propaganda.

Source: historychannel.com

SPORTS

Despite Loss, Gators Believe They're Good

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) -- Suddenly, the outlook has changed for the Florida Gators. They're good, they know it, and now, so does everybody else. "I told the players, 'Now you know why we're pushing so hard,'" coach Ron Zook said Tuesday. "We all knew it was there, but sometimes you have to see it." For 40-plus minutes against second-ranked Miami last weekend, the 19th-ranked Gators saw and felt what it's like to not only compete, but to dominate, one of the best teams in the country. The last 20 minutes were a meltdown. They blew a 23-point lead and wound up with a 38-33 loss. It was upsetting for the Gators on the one hand, uplifting on the other. Upsetting because no team should blow that big a lead that quickly. Uplifting because, now, instead of the 6-6 team most people took the Gators for before the season started, it's clear they have the talent to be much more - maybe even a Southeastern Conference title contender. "We feel like we've got a good football team," center Mike Degory said. "Coach Zook told us that, and now we're starting to believe it." While the Gators (1-1) were taking Miami to the wire, several of the conference rivals that were supposed to be better than them this year were struggling. Auburn, ranked sixth in the preseason, fell to 0-2 with a 17-3 loss to Georgia Tech; the Tigers still haven't scored a touchdown this season. Florida's opponent next week, Tennessee, didn't close out its 34-24 win over Marshall until there were less than five minutes left in the game. Meanwhile, last year's conference champion, Georgia, has looked good, but the Bulldogs have only beaten the Gators once in the last 13 years. "We definitely feel like we can play with anybody now," tailback Ran Carthon said. "I think we knew deep-down that we could. But we made some believers out of people." Since the preseason, Zook has claimed the Gators were better than they were a year ago. The statement seemed out of place for a second-year coach, coming off an 8-5 record, who clearly could have taken the "we're rebuilding" stance and bought himself some more time to strengthen a depleted roster. Clearly, though, he saw the benefits of good coaching and recruiting were beginning to sink in. The offensive line got deeper with the addition of junior college transfers Tavares Washington, Billy Griffin and Anthony Guerrero. Tailbacks Carthon (4.3 yards a carry) and redshirt freshman DeShawn Wynn (65-yard TD run last week) have been exceptional. And this is starting to look like a real Florida receiving corps. O.J. Small, Andre Caldwell and Carlos Perez have all made plays of 30 yards or more. Although they had significant problems against Miami - most notably kickoff returns and a late-game collapse - the special teams and defense are showing small improvements. At 41 yards a kick, punter Eric Wilbur has strengthened a weak area. The defense, which only forced 17 turnovers last season, already has seven, three of which have been returned for scores. Florida has a tuneup game against Florida A&M this week, then the SEC season starts. Instead of thinking about breaking .500, nobody could blame the Gators about setting bigger goals this season. "I think they understand they're going to be a good football team," Zook said. "They can stand toe-to-toe with the best. That's all part of the process."

IAAF: Kelli White Guilty of Dope Offense

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) - U.S. sprinter Kelli White committed a doping offense at the World Championships and should be stripped of her two gold medals, track and field's governing body ruled Tuesday. The International Association of Athletics Federations sent White's case to U.S. track officials for disciplinary action.

ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC

Top 5 Albums

1. Love & Life -- Mary J. Blige
2. Metamorphosis -- Hilary Duff
3. The Neptunes Present ... Clones -- Various Artists
4. Greatest Hits Volume II and Some Other Stuff -- Alan Jackson
5. Drankin' Patnaz -- YoungBloodZ

Top 5 Singles

1. Shake Ya Tailfeather -- Nelly, P. Diddy & Murphy Lee
2. Right Thurr -- Chingy
3. Crazy in Love -- Beyonce Featuring Jay-Z
4. Baby Boy -- Beyonce Featuring Sean Paul
5. Get Low -- Lil Jon & The East Side Boyz Featuring Ying Yang Twins

BOOKS

Bestsellers

1. The South Beach Diet
Arthur Agatston -- Rodale
2. Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them:
A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right
Al Franken -- E.P. Dutton
3. The Da Vinci Code
Dan Brown -- Doubleday
4. New Imitation in Death
J.D. Robb (aka Nora Roberts) -- Berkley
5. Seabiscuit: An American Legend
Laura Hillenbrand -- Ballantine

MOVIES

Top 5 Boxoffice

1. Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star -- \$7 million
2. Jeepers Creepers 2 -- \$6.7 million
3. Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl -- \$5.5 million
4. Freaky Friday -- \$5.1 million
5. S.W.A.T. -- \$4.6 million

ENTERTAINMENT

Story of 'Sweetback' Premieres in Toronto

TORONTO (AP) -- Mario Van Peebles has just walked a mile in his father's shoes - no easy road to take when Dad's the godfather of black cinema and the unwitting sire of 1970s "blaxploitation" flicks, all rolled into one cigar-chomping package. The younger Van Peebles co-wrote, directed, produced and starred in "How to Get the Man's Foot Outta Your Asss!" He plays his father, Melvin Van Peebles, in a raucous account of how his dad made the revolutionary 1971 black-power film "Sweet Sweetback's Baad Asssss Song." At times a loving portrait, "Foot" more often depicts a tyrannical artist who did not hesitate to put his work ahead of friends and family - including son Mario, then 13. Melvin Van Peebles insisted on a realistic rendering. "One thing he told me was, 'Don't make me too nice,'" Mario, 46, said in an interview with The Associated Press alongside his 71-year-old father. In 1970, Melvin became the toast of Hollywood for his satiric comedy "Watermelon Man," about a white bigot who wakes up one day to find he's turned black. Mario opens "Foot" with the crossroads Melvin came to after "Watermelon Man." An unlit cigar perpetually clenched in his teeth, Melvin cruises Hollywood on a mean motorcycle, riding out to the desert with son Mario to ponder his options. What if, Melvin wonders, he made a movie about a street brother, a black hustler turned revolutionary against the man? Melvin was dead serious, and he took on a story that Hollywood ran screaming from. He begged, borrowed and ultimately used his own money to make "Sweetback," in which Melvin casts himself as an urban sex stud on the lam after retaliating against racist cops who are beating a black man. The title alone was revolutionary. Melvin misspelled "Bad Ass" because it allowed him to get the film's name into advertisements in some newspapers, and because it fit the movie's tone. "I could have called it 'The Ballad of the Indomitable Sweetback.' But I wanted the core audience, the target audience, to know it's for them," Melvin said. "So I said 'Ba-ad Asssss,' like you really say it." Melvin used the X rating as a marketing gimmick, printing T-shirts that read, "Rated X by an All White Jury" to advertise "Sweetback" at the only two U.S. theaters that initially agreed to show the movie. "Sweetback" caught fire with black audiences, eventually grossing \$15 million and becoming one of the most profitable independent films in U.S. history. "Shaft" followed soon after, heralding a wave of Hollywood-backed flicks with street-tough black leads. Melvin Van Peebles was disheartened by the "blaxploitation" wave, saying those movies scrapped the revolutionary spirit of the black-power movement in favor of stereotypical fare meant to cash in on the success of "Sweetback." But they did put black performers and crew members to work, and the legacy

of "Sweetback" finally began paying off with the arrival of such black filmmakers as Spike Lee, John Singleton and the Hudlin brothers in the 1980s and 1990s, he said. Singleton appears in "Foot," along with Melvin's filmmaking contemporary, Ossie Davis, who plays Melvin's father. The action closes with a touching father-son scene, with Mario as his dad and the actor playing young Mario sharing a theater seat, watching "Sweetback" in a crowded cinema. "Melvin said to me once, 'There's two loves in your life. What you do, and who you do it with,'" Mario said. "I'm in the business I love. I got to do a movie about a cat that I love, while he's still there to see it. What a kick."



The multi-talented Mario Van Peebles talks about his latest film, an account of the making of his father's breakthrough 1971 film "Sweet Sweetback's Baad Asssss Song."

Opus Is Returning to Sunday Comic Strips

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Cartoonist Berkeley Breathed is resurrecting Opus the penguin from the 1980s comic strip "Bloom County" for a new series to appear in Sunday comics this November. The Sunday-only strip, to be called "Opus," begins Nov. 23, the Washington Post reported Tuesday. It will be syndicated by The Washington Post Writers Group. A 1987 Pulitzer Prize-winner for editorial cartooning, Breathed stopped drawing the daily "Bloom County" in 1989 when it was running in nearly 1,300 papers. He began a Sunday strip, "Outland," with many of the same characters - including the penguin's hairball-hacking sidekick, Bill the cat - but quit that in 1995. Partly chalking it up to artistic burnout, Breathed said at the time that cartoonists "die and go to cartoon hell for working beyond that magic intersection of art and fun." He has since written children's books and sold the rights to an Opus movie that could start filming by the end of the year.